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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,911	02/23/2004	Wolfgang Mailaender	R.304515	7534

7590 08/24/2005

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EXAMINER

FRISTOE JR, JOHN K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,911

Applicant(s)

MAILAENDER, WOLFGANG

Examiner

John K. Fristoe Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/22/2004, 1/3/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed 10/22/2004 is acknowledged by the examiner. However, the information disclosure statement filed 1/3/2005 appears to be a duplicate of the information disclosure statement filed 10/22/2004. Subsequently, the examiner has crossed out the references listed on the information disclosure statement filed 1/3/2005 and included a copy of that information disclosure statement with the instant Office Action as well as a copy of the information disclosure statement filed 10/22/2004 that is initialed and signed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,903,070 (Gibel). Gibel discloses a magnet valve housing comprising a hollow body (1) having a sidewall with different wall thicknesses (4 and 5) extending axially (figure 2), a maximum wall thickness (5), a minimum wall thickness (4), wherein the housing is symmetrical (figure 2), wherein the body (1) has two reduced wall sections (4) facing one another (figure 2), and wherein the body (1) is essentially “cup-shaped” (figure 1).

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,322,048 (Gramann et al.). Gramann et al. disclose a magnet valve housing comprising a hollow body (3.1) having a sidewall with different wall thicknesses (seen in figure 2.1), a

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maximum wall thickness (adjacent element 8 in figure 2.1), a minimum wall thickness (adjacent reference number 3.1 in figure 2.1), wherein the housing is symmetrical (figure 2.1), a reduced wall thickness in four regions (adjacent the corner of element 3.2 in figure 2.1), and wherein the body (3.1) is essentially "cup-shaped" (figure 2.5).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9, 10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,903,070 (Gibel) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,234,199 (Nohira). Gibel discloses a magnet valve housing comprising a hollow body (1) having a sidewall with different wall thicknesses (4 and 5) extending axially (figure 2), a maximum wall thickness (5), a minimum wall thickness (4), wherein the housing is symmetrical (figure 2), wherein the body (1) has two reduced wall sections (4) facing one another (figure 2), and wherein the body (1) is essentially "cup-shaped" (figure 1) but lacks the solenoid valves placed in an array of multiple solenoid valves. Nohira teaches an apparatus comprising an array of solenoid valves (PC1-PC8) wherein the housings of the solenoid valves are disposed adjacent one another and wherein the configuration is essentially rectangular (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the solenoid valve having reduced wall thicknesses in two regions of Gibel by placing them in an array with their reduced wall

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sections are adjacent one another as taught by Nohira since the reduced wall sections allow a user to place the valves in a stable configuration.

7. Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,322,048 (Gramann et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,234,199 (Nohira). Gramann et al. disclose a magnet valve housing comprising a hollow body (3.1) having a sidewall with different wall thicknesses (seen in figure 2.1), a maximum wall thickness (adjacent element 8 in figure 2.1), a minimum wall thickness (adjacent reference number 3.1 in figure 2.1), wherein the housing is symmetrical (figure 2.1), a reduced wall thickness in four regions (adjacent the corner of element 3.2 in figure 2.1), and wherein the body (3.1) is essentially “cup-shaped” (figure 2.5) but lacks the solenoid valves placed in an array of multiple solenoid valves. Nohira teaches an apparatus comprising an array of solenoid valves (PC1-PC8) wherein the housings of the solenoid valves are disposed adjacent one another and wherein the configuration is essentially rectangular (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the solenoid valve having reduced wall thicknesses in two regions of Gibel by placing them in an array with their reduced wall sections are adjacent one another as taught by Nohira since the reduced wall sections allow a user to place the valves in a stable configuration.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

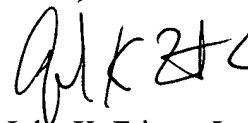
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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Fristoe Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-4926.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7: 00 a.m-4: 30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine R. Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John K. Fristoe Jr.  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3751

JKF



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8/18/05